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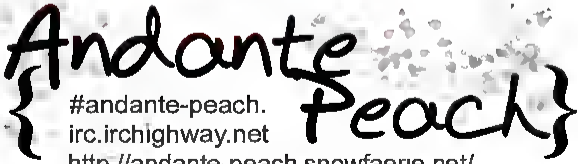

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Dear Green (Hitomi no Ounowa)

by Fujiyama Hyouta

Andante Peach

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ISBN 4-344-80536-4
Volume 01 Chapter 01

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瞳の追うのは ①
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富士山ひょうた

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1

When Ryouko introduced me to "her boyfriend," my first impression was that he just wasn't the sociable type.
But when I started hanging out with him...
I realized that he's actually the kind of awkward guy who speaks slowly

第1話

When Ryouko introduced me to "her best friend," my first impression was that he was the kind of frivolous person who got carried away by everything
But when I started hanging out with him...
I realized that, contrary to all appearances, he's the kind of awkward guy who's deadly sincere, deep inside.

*Translator's note: A "part-time job" sometimes refers to the kind of work you're doing and is not necessarily part-time when it comes to hours of work.

YOU'RE A MESS...
I WAS AT THE OFFICE UNTIL TODAY...
For my job
HAVE YOU SLEPT AT ALL YET?
NOT MUCH.
...HEY...
Ding Dong
Otouni and I left our hometown together when we were eighteen to go to college in Tokyo
He majored in design, and now, he's being run to the ground by his graduation project and his part-time work.
On the other hand, when I was enrolled in school, I unfortunately realized that my interests were in a different direction from where I was originally headed
I would have spent last year redoing my grade but instead I took my first chance and left halfway through the term. I've spent my days since holding down a couple of part-time jobs...
IN THAT CASE, I COULD JUST LEAVE THIS STUFF HERE FOR YOU AND GO HOME...
MMM... I'M OKAY...

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UM... "HOW ARE YOU TWO DOING?"
"COURTESY OF MY LAST BONUS, A GIRL FROM MY COMPANY AND I TOOK A TRIP TO KOREA."
Otoumi and Ryouko have already broken up.
but with me, the best friend, in the middle, we've somehow managed to keep the communication going.
"BUT WE JUST WENT FOR THE WEEKEND, SO IT WAS A REALLY FAST TRIP. THE TRUTH IS, IT WAS MY FIRST TIME OUT OF THE COUNTRY,
BUT I HAD A LOT OF FUN."
By the time I realized it, I'd been hanging out with Otoumi for more than five years...
I know it.
Snore
WHEN YOU GET IN, GIVE ME A CALL..."
"WILL YOU TWO COME HOME FOR NEW YEAR'S?

FLOP
THERE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP, THEN DO IT PROPERLY!
GRAB
GEEZ SEE, THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU I'D JUST GO HOME
YEAH... SORRY...
I'M PUTTING YOUR PRESENT IN THE FRIDGE
AND THE KEY...
I'LL SHUT THE DOOR AND LEAVE IT IN YOUR DOOR MAILBOX LIKE ALWAYS, OKAY?

Zzz.
WELL, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS
IF HE WAS THIS EXHAUSTED
ALL IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN WAS JUST ONE CALL, AND WE COULD'VE CHANGED PLANS FOR A BETTER TIME—
CLICK

I haven't seen him in over a month, and he calls me so rarely that it sometimes seems like just an afterthought.
I see the faces of the people I work with a lot more than I see his, nowadays.
CLATTER
CLANK
It's not that I feel like we're growing apart...
I'm just worried
Ah!
I thought you didn't have work today.
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN OUR CAFE, YAJIMA?
I'M STUDYING COFFEE.
WHAT'S WRONG, AYA? IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS SO UNUSUAL, RIGHT?

I'M FINE WITH THE STUDYING.
BUT BEFORE THAT, HOW ABOUT AT LEAST GIVING KANA-CHAN A FOLLOW-UP CALL?
SHE SAID THAT YOU LEFT YOUR DATE EARLY TO GO TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE?
How did you hear about it already?
DID HE DO THAT?
HE DID DO THAT, DIDN'T HE?
The poor thing.
YES... OKAY...
SHE WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT DATE. TOO, AND IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE SHE'S DONE THAT.
WELL, YES, BUT I MEAN, I HAD MY OWN REASONS, TOO...
Daddy, an iced Royal Milk Tea
Sure sure
SHE SAID IT WAS A FRIEND YOU DON'T GET TO SEE OFTEN, RIGHT?
IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR FRIENDS YOUR FIRST PRIORITY, THAT'S YOUR CHOICE
BUT COULD YOU AT LEAST DO KANA-CHAN THE FAVOR OF CONSIDERING HER FEELINGS TOO?
It feels like I'm being the bridge you two need to cross the water
I'M SORRY I'LL CALL HER WHEN I GET HOME.
YOU DO THAT

I'M SO SORRY. IT WAS JUST A BIT OF A SHOCK. SO WHEN I WAS TALKING TO AYA IT SLIPPED OUT...

NO, IT REALLY WAS MY FAULT...

I'M REALLY SORRY, KANA. CAN I MAKE IT UP TO YOU BY TAKING YOU TO THAT CAFE YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GO TO...?

THE ORDER'S READY!

AH, OKAY!

SIGH...

CHICK

There isn't anything like this with Otoumi, is there.

HE SAYS EXACTLY WHAT HE'S THINKING, AND IT CAN BE HURTFUL SOMETIMES WHEN HE'S SO BLUNT

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, I FEEL LIKE I CAN BE AROUND HIM WITHOUT PRETENSE, JUST AS HE IS...

I SAID IT WAS MY FAULT. BUT COME ON NOW. I DON'T REALLY THINK I DID ANYTHING THAT BAD

IT'S LIKE... JUST GOING OUT LIKE THIS HAS ITS UPS AND ITS DOWNS

WELL,

IT'S NATURAL THAT BEING AROUND OTOUMI AND DATING A GIRL IS DIFFERENT

Wait.

Or is it wrong to even be making comparisons at all...?

HUH... YOU SAY YOU QUIT COLLEGE...

SO YOU COULD OPEN UP A COFFEE SHOP?

I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE KIND OF THING THAT ONLY OLD, RETIRED OFFICE DRONES EVER WANTED TO DO

PACHINKO

Translator's note: Pachinko is a form of Japanese gambling where you drop little silver balls which cost about a hundred yen each into the top of a machine with pins on it, and the slot that the ball falls into at the bottom determines how many more balls you get out of the machine.

SURE... WELL, ACTUALLY, THE OWNER OF ONE OF THE PLACES I WORK AT IS AN OLD, RETIRED OFFICE DRONE... SO YEAH

YEAH... IT'S THE FAMILY BUSINESS OF ONE OF THE FRIENDS I WAS IN A SEMINAR WITH IN COLLEGE, SO...

I SEE... YEAH... I HEARD YOU WERE HOLDING DOWN A COUPLE OF JOBS

(Rent on the back)

HMM... I BET YOU NEED TO SAVE UP SOME MONEY FOR YOUR SHOP...

BUT YOU GET TO LEARN THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE, TOO... SO THE POINT IS, YOU GET THEM BOTH DONE IN ONE SHOT?

BUT FOR NOW MY PRIORITY IS TO SAVE UP ENOUGH BY NEXT SPRING TO REACH MY GOAL... MY ALLOWANCE WAS CUT OFF,

SO IT'S PROBABLY TIME TO GET SERIOUS, SAVE UP AND JUST START MY CAFE...

Translator's note: 20,000 yen = about two hundred dollars. This is a lot of money, but not an uncommon amount to spend at a pachinko parlor.

NO SHE KNOWS WHAT MY SITUATION IS, AND IT'S NOT LIKE SHE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND, BUT...
BESIDES I SEE KANA ONCE A WEEK, COMPARED TO MY BEST FRIEND, WHO I SEE MAYBE ONCE A MONTH, IF I'M LUCKY...
Is that selfish thinking...?
OTOUMI?
AH YOU'RE HOME

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE? IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!
JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO I FIGURED I'D WAIT A BIT,
AND IF YOU DIDN'T COME, JUST PUT IT IN YOUR MAILBOX AND GO HOME
PUT WHAT IN MY MAILBOX?
WHEN YOU WENT HOME LAST TIME YOU LEFT RYOUKO'S LETTER BEHIND?
HUH!?
YOU COULD HAVE JUST DROPPED SOMETHING LIKE THAT OFF ANYTIME
I THOUGHT OF THAT, TOO.
BUT I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, ANYHOW

WHEN YOU WERE OVER LAST TIME, IT'D BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'D SEEN EACH OTHER, BUT WE BARELY GOT TO TALK AT ALL
I GUESS SO.
Coffee put in a mise strainer.
WHAT,
YOUR WORK'S GOING TO END SOON?
THEY KEEP TELLING ME THAT THEY NEED MY HELP, AND THEY NEED IT BAD.
WELL, IT SHOULD BE CALMER DURING THE YEAR AND BY THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR,
I'LL BE GETTING SERIOUS WITH MY FINAL PROJECT.
DON'T WEAR YOURSELF OUT BEFORE YOU GET A REAL JOB.

RRR
RRR
RRR
YEAH
OH, KANA
YEAH, I JUST GOT HOME
MM-HMM
EH?

YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

YUP

IT WAS LIKE... TWO MONTHS AGO RIGHT? WHEN YOU TOLD ME YOU'D STARTED DATING HER...?

CLACK

AH... SORRY, I'VE GOT A FRIEND OVER.

YEAH SORRY

I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU TOMORROW, SO PUT THAT IN YOUR SCHEDULE, OKAY?

THREE MONTHS

SO YOU GUYS ARE STILL ON

What!?

IT WAS THE DAY I WENT TO YOUR PLACE, ACTUALLY...

YEAH WELL, IN OUR OWN WAY ACTUALLY SHE GOT MAD AT ME THE OTHER DAY

THE DAY YOU CAME TO MY PLACE?
YEAH...
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, I CALLED YOU UP AFTER YOU'D MADE PLANS FOR YOUR DATE, DIDN'T I?
I called you the day before.
SO IT'S NOT UNREASONABLE THAT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND WOULD LOSE HER TEMPER.
IF YOU HAD SOMETHING PLANNED ALREADY, IT MIGHT'VE BEEN BETTER IF YOU'D JUST TOLD ME "NO."
YEAH, WELL LIKE I TOLD YOU,
RYOUKO'S PRESENT WAS PERISHABLE FOOD, TOO...
Wasn't it in a vacuum pack? It should be fine.
AND BESIDES YOU ALWAYS SEEM SO BUSY, SO I WAS THINKING THAT I DIDN'T KNOW WHEN I'D BE ABLE TO SEE YOU NEXT.

YOU DID THINGS JUST LIKE THIS WHEN WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL

THAT WAS THE REASON BEHIND SOME OF YOUR BREAK-UPS. IN THE END, WASN'T IT?

GULP

IT'S BEEN A REALLY LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD THE CHANCE TO HANG OUT.

AND I SEE KANA ONCE A WEEK ANYWAY...

...

HOW DID IT BECOME COMMON SENSE

THAT GIRLFRIENDS SHOULD COME BEFORE BUDDIES?

WHO KNOWS...?

IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY THINK BREAKING UP IS A BAD THING...

When Otoumi talks

There are times when I feel the tension in my shoulders leave in a rush.

Even though

I think that Otoumi is probably just saying things exactly as he sees them.

"But you know it you're worried about it anyway..
Your repeated year was a good time for you to get going, wasn't it?"
chuckle
I remember
WHAT'S GOING ON?
"Of course a normal parent would be against it! You're going in the complete opposite direction of what you'd planned."
WHAT?
NO, NOTHING...

That's one of the things about him that I really, really like.

YOU THERE YAJIMA!
...800
900
HEY.
NO, IT'S NOT "HEY!"
I HEARD YOU BROKE UP WITH KANA-CHAN!?
AH. YES.
WHAT ARE YOU, A DEMON!?
ON THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS? THE DAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS!
WHY WOULD YOU DUMP HER AT A TIME LIKE THIS!?
UM, 'SCUSE ME...

I WORRIED ABOUT THE WHOLE CHRISTMAS THING, BUT...

IT JUST COULDN'T BE HELPED

YOU TOLD HER THAT YOU HAD TO PUT IN TIME AT WORK DIDN'T YOU?

BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK MORNING NOON AND NIGHT... YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE AT LEAST A LITTLE TIME FOR HER!

IF KANA WANTS A MAN WHO WILL DO THAT SORT OF THING FOR HER... THEN I'M NOT THE MAN SHE WANTS

THAT'S JUST WHAT I MEAN

!

SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU'RE NOT EVEN WILLING TO GO THAT FAR FOR HER SAKE...?

...YEAH.

CLANK
ABOUT CHRISTMAS,
YOU COULD HAVE JUST TOLD ME YOUR SITUATION, YOU KNOW...
NO—
IT'S FINE

ring
ring
ring
YES
IT'S OTOUMI
HEY!
NOPE
YOU'RE NOT GOING HOME FOR NEW YEAR'S THIS TIME?
I FIGURED YOU'D STILL BE AROUND
WHENEVER MY RELATIVES GATHER I JUST BECOME THEIR PREY
YOU'RE STILL HERE, TOO OTOUMI? NOT GOING HOME?
EVERY YEAR WHEN I GO HOME, SOMEONE IN MY FAMILY GIVES ME A COLD.
PLUS I DON'T WANT TO WORRY ABOUT MY FINAL PROJECT, SO THIS YEAR I'LL PASS.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU ALWAYS CATCH A COLD AT THE BEGIN NING OF THE YEAR

THEY'VE BEEN WORKING YOU HARD? DID YOU GET TO FINISH YOUR JOB UP PROPERLY?

YESTERDAY WAS RIGHT ON THE LINE. TODAY I SAW THE LAST OF MY WORK, AND THEY MADE ME DO THE CLEANING

SO IT WASN'T REALLY MUCH LIKE CHRISTMAS, THEN

AT LEAST I GOT TO EAT SOME CAKE AT THE OFFICE

The chairman's treat.

That stingy, boss...?

SO YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING TODAY... EITHER

THE PEOPLE AT WORK MADE ME TAKE SOME CAKE HOME, THAT'S ALL

IS THAT SO...

I...

BROKE UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND BEFORE CHRISTMAS

HEY, SINCE WE'RE BOTH ACTUALLY IN TOWN, HOW ABOUT SPENDING NEW YEAR'S EVE OVER HERE?

WE CAN GO ON THE NEW YEAR'S TEMPLE VISIT TWO YEARS IN A ROW!*

Translator's note: The Japanese traditionally go to temple to celebrate the turning of the New Year.

DO YOU HAVE NEW YEAR'S EVE OFF FROM WORK?

NOPE. THE CAFE'S OPEN UNTIL EVENING AND THEN AFTER THAT WE'VE GOT THE BIG CLEAN-UP.*

DON'T DIE BEFORE THE YEAR TURNS

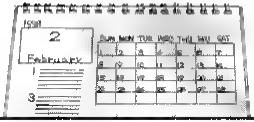
Translator's note: It's also traditional to have your house/business spotless when the New Year comes.

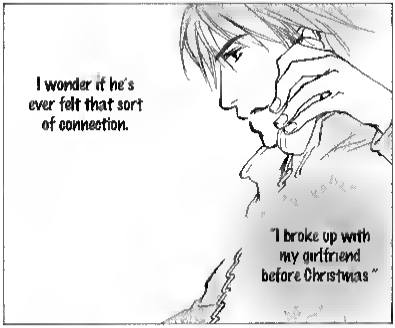
END

第2話

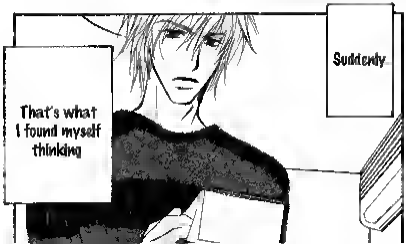
I don t know

what it's like to be burnt by love.





I don't know how it feels to have your heart overflowing with sentiment



Maybe these thoughts started when I submitted my graduation project,
and a guy in my department asked me out
Maybe they started when an under-classman girl showed up on my way home,
and told me how she felt...
daze
In my free time, it's normally only tedious thoughts that go running around my brain.
AH

I'VE GOT TO GO COLLECT MY PAY FROM MY PART-TIME JOB
SUN CORPORATE
サン クリエイト
SO YOU FINALLY CAME OTOUMI-KUN
I WAS STARTING TO THINK THAT IF YOU DIDN'T NEED IT, I'D BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT IT
Please give me a break, ma'am.
Ho ho ho!
Head of the personnel department.
HAVE YOU JUST BEEN TAKING IT EASY LATELY?
IF YOU NEED MORE HANDS, I'LL COME IN AGAIN...
YES SIR.
YUP YUP!
STARTING APRIL, YOU'LL BE COMING IN EVERY DAY, SO SPREAD YOUR WINGS A BIT UNTIL THEN.
YOU JUST FINISHED YOUR GRADUATION PROJECT, DIDN'T YOU, OTOUMI-KUN?
NO... THE CRAZY RUSH AT THE END OF LAST YEAR SEEMS LIKE A DREAM AT THIS POINT.

MAYBE I CAN RENT THAT FOREIGN DRAMA I KIND OF LIKE.
AH, BUT I WORKED SO HARD FOR THIS TIME I'VE GOT NOW...
I THINK YUKARI SAID HE WANTED TO WATCH IT, TOO...
IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR, NOW THAT THE RUSH OF MY GRAD PROJECT IS OVER...
FREE TIME.
Vroom
Coffee

YEAH. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO, AND I HAVEN'T BEEN TO YOUR CAFE SINCE YOU SHOWED ME YOUR WORK-PLACE
OH, YEAH
IT'S BEEN A WHILE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE NEW YEAR'S EVE
DID YOU FINISH YOUR GRAD PROJECT?
WHAT HAPPENED?
OTOUMI!?
NICE TO MEET YOU
WELCOME! ARE YOU YAJIMA-KUN'S FRIEND?
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO YOU'VE GOT GOOD TIMING
YES. WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE HIGH SCHOOL
MY NAME'S OTOUMI

IN ANOTHER TWENTY MINUTES, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TIME FOR YAJIMA-KUN TO START PACKING UP
SO IT'S...
WELCOME!
OTOUMI-KUN, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
AH... A CUP OF COFFEE?
COMING RIGHT UP
Excuse me. Have you decided on an order?
A coffee set. Cheesecake and tea please.
The same for me. Could I have milk tea, though?
Milk tea it is.
Let me repeat your order.

SEEING YOUR FRIEND WORK IS LIKE SEEING HIM IN A FRESH NEW LIGHT?
SOME-THING LIKE THAT
Excuse me... could I have an ashtray?
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S COMPLETELY INTERNALISED THE MANNERISMS OF A SERVICE PROFESSION
IT'S BEEN ALMOST HALF A YEAR SINCE HE CAME HERE ON MY DAUGHTER'S RECOMMENDATION AFTER ALL
RRRRR...
AH. EXCUSE ME A MOMENT.
YES, THIS IS THE CAFE MIURA.
YES YES, THAT'S CORRECT
OH, NO, NOT AT ALL, HE'S BEEN AN ENOURMOUS HELP TO US
OF COURSE PLEASE WAIT JUST A MOMENT
OTOUMI-KUN
EH?
YES?

ACK!
YES IT'S YOUR FAMILY
IT'S FOR ME?
I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D CALL MY WORK-PLACE
NO, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S URGENT

HELLO? WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT HAP-PENED...?
AUNTIE'S...
...IN CRITICAL CONDITION?
WHAT?

I TOLD YOU, CALM DOWN.
YOU CAN DO THAT AFTER YOU GET BACK HOME.
OH, RIGHT! I HAVE TO CALL THE PACHINKO PARLOUR AND TELL THEM I NEED TIME OFF THERE, TOO...
THE OWNER COULD GET MIURA, HIS DAUGHTER, TO COME RIGHT AWAY.
AND HE COULD GIVE ME TIME OFF, SO I'M OKAY WITH WORK
AH! TRAIN FARE! IF I HAVEN'T GOT ANY MONEY, I CAN'T BUY TICKETS...
NO, WAIT, BEFORE THAT, I HAVE TO LOOK AT THE TRAIN SCHEDULE...
YEAH
YOU SAID YOUR AUNT...
IS IT THAT AUNT?

*Translation note: "midori no madoguchi," or the "green window," always refers to the window where you buy tickets for the Japan Rail. True to their name, they are indeed green.

I'LL GO AHEAD TO THE TRAIN STATION AND BUY THE TICKETS...

YOU GO TO YOUR APARTMENT AND PICK YOUR LUGGAGE, YUKARI

YAJIMA!

I JUST PICKED UP THE PAY FROM MY JOB SO IT'S OKAY.

What!?

IN ANY CASE, I'LL PUT UP THE MONEY FOR YOUR TRAIN FARE FOR NOW

YUKARI.

I'LL BUY THE TICKETS AND WAIT FOR YOU IN FRONT OF THE JR LINE TICKET WINDOW*.

HEY...

YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT BUYING...

HEY!

YEAH. SORRY TO SPRING THIS ON YOU, MIURA.

I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE IT EMPTY FOR TOO LONG, SO...

DID YOU JUST LEAVE THE CAFE?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT. GET GOING ALREADY!

YOU'VE STILL GOT TO GO BACK TO YOUR APARTMENT, RIGHT?

YEAH...

I'M SORRY.

I DIDN'T REALIZE...

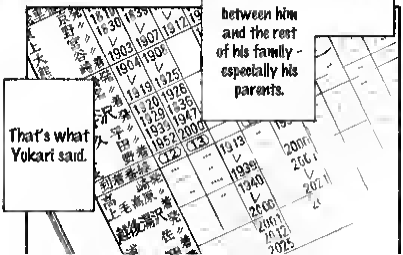
You were with a friend.

YEAH...

'Auntie' was the one who was most against Yukari dropping out of college.

But when she heard the reason, she was also the one who also made the most effort to understand him.

In the end, she was the one who became the buffer zone between him and the rest of his family - especially his parents.



Translator's Note, short for midori, green

I heard the story from Yukari

She's the daughter of the owner, and she's close enough to Yukari to have introduced him to the job... yeah, she's probably heard it.
That girl...
She probably heard this story too, huh.

Even when I'm not free
I'm burdened by these tedious thoughts.
OTOUMI!

I'LL PAY YOU BACK FOR THE TICKETS AS SOON AS I GET BACK HERE.

SORRY "BOUT THIS.

THE TRAIN CHANGE IS IN ECHIGO YUZAWA IT'S ABOUT A FIFTEEN MINUTE WAIT

FINAL ARRIVAL TIME IS SCHEDULED FOR JUST AFTER TEN-THIRTY

WE'VE GOT TO HURRY. WE'RE GOING TO MISS THE SHINKANSEN*...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WE'VE GOT TO

That looks like too many bits of paper.

I'M GOING HOME, TOO

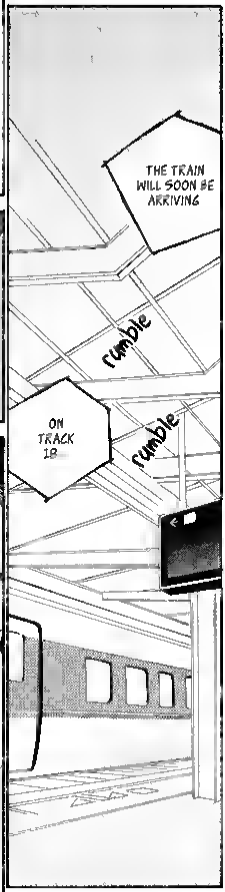
*The tickets say that they're going to Kanazawa, which is in the Ishikawa prefecture. It's a city very near the Japan Sea, northeast of Kyoto and Osaka.

PART OF IT IS BECAUSE I DIDN'T GO HOME FOR NEW YEARS...

BUT WHEN PEOPLE ARE ALONE, THEY START FEELING A LITTLE LOST

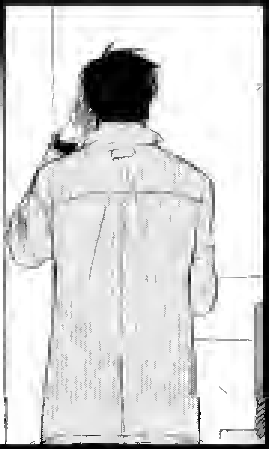
When I came along with him

It wasn't because I thought I could say something that would lighten his mood or anything, but...



But I think there's definitely a certain feeling of security that exists when someone stays at your side.

I just hoped that my presence would make Yukari feel that way.

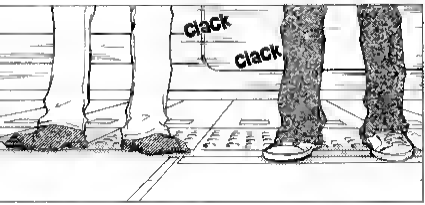


But then I regretted my own actions.

THEY SAID SHE TOOK HER LAST BREATH...
...FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO
Because as long as I'm here, Yukari will feel as if he's not supposed to cry.
I SEE

Four years ago in April, the two of us were standing on this same platform, waiting for a train going in the opposite direction.

At the end of that track, we each had our new, separate lives ahead of us.



CLICK
SEE YA
YEP.
I didn't think that the next time we came together to walk this same path
it would be for a reason like this.

ONIICHAN!
O'toune family, daughter #3, Nkane (15)
GET YOURSELF TOGETHER!
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE YOU GOT HOME
AND FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS ALL YOU'VE DONE IS ROLL AROUND ON THE SOFA!
WHAT CAN I DO? I HAVEN'T GOT A ROOM ANYMORE
They made it into your room.
And I'm telling you, that's not a reason to be hiding in the house all day!
Pissed
If you know that, then why can't you be a little considerate!?
It's an eyesore!
I KNOW YOU'RE CRANKY BECAUSE OF YOUR ENTRANCE EXAMS, BUT DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON ME
You're the only one who's taking it easy!

ONIICHAN, THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY STRANGE ABOUT YOU THESE DAYS.

AH

I SEE SO IT'S STARTING

I HEARD THAT YOU PASSED THE EXAM FOR A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

BUT THE SCHOOL I WANT TO GO TO IS PUBLIC

AND YOU DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS BEFORE BUT IT WASN'T LIKE YOU NEVER LEFT THE HOUSE, EITHER

YOU JUST SHOW UP WITHOUT GIVING US ANY TIME TO PREPARE

AND YOU USED TO JUST FLOP AROUND BEFORE BUT NOW YOU'RE MEANER.

AH, THERE YOU ARE

I'M HOME!

KOU ARE YOU IN THE HOUSE?

The oldest girl boy (27)
(There's also a middle girl (25))

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND TO SEE YOU.

IT'S YAJIMA-KUN

YO.

As always it's the older sister who looks just like you

YUKARI... WHAT HAPPENED?

AUNTIE'S FUNERAL IS SAFELY OVER.

I THOUGHT I'D TELL YOU

THAT I'M GOING ON HOME A LITTLE BEFORE YOU.

THEY TOLD ME THAT THE TRUTH WAS
THAT AUNTIE'S BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL SINCE TWO WEEKS AGO...
...THEY DIDN'T TELL YOU...?
NO.
ANYWAY, I DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT IT
SO I ASKED MY PARENTS WHY THEY DIDN'T AT LEAST TELL ME
IT SEEMS THAT AUNTIE TOLD THEM NOT TO
'BECAUSE I'M GOING TO GET BETTER SOON,' SHE SAID

THE NOTE "I HOPE YOU DON'T WASTE IT, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU WILL" WAS ATTACHED TO IT.
MY FATHER SHOWED IT TO ME.
BUT IN THE FAMILY SHRINE'S DRAWER,
SHE'D LEFT A LETTER, WITH THE INHERITANCE FOR HER GRANDSON AND FOR ME NEATLY PORTIONED OFF.
THE INHERITANCE WASN'T A HUGE AMOUNT OR ANYTHING.
I THOUGHT "I SHOULD HAVE COME BACK FOR NEW YEAR'S, AND AT LEAST SHOWN MYSELF TO HER."
BUT WHEN I SAW THAT

SHE'D HAVE TOLD ME "STOP WASTING TIME!" AND KICKED ME OUT, RIGHT?

WELL, IF I'D BEEN LYING AROUND THE HOUSE FOR MORE THAN THREE DAYS,

AH I'M GOING TO THE STATION BY BUS.

SHE DID

HA HA

...SHE DID THAT TO YOU LAST YEAR, DIDN'T SHE?

WHAT TIME'S YOUR TRAIN?

I'LL GET TO THE STATION IN PLENTY OF TIME.

THE NEXT ONE'S COMING SOON.

IT'S THE EXPRESS, RIGHT AT TEN O'CLOCK.

Yukari probably wanted to let me hear this story right away, and that's why he showed up.

It would be nice, if that were true.

REALLY? YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR GRADUATION PROJECT, SO YOU CAN JUST RELAX, RIGHT?

I HAVEN'T GOT A ROOM HERE ANYMORE, AND I CAN RELAX OVER THERE, TOO

AH— YEAH I GET THAT

ha ha

OH,

HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO BE HERE, OTOUMI?

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO BE TAKING IT PRETTY EASY, RIGHT?

NO, I'M PLANNING TO GO HOME THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW

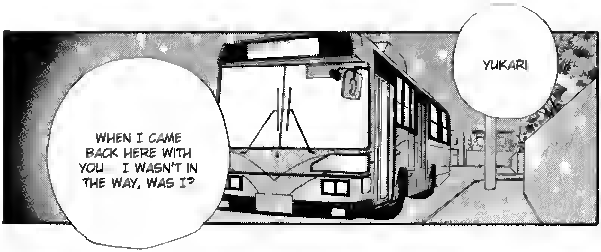
IT'S STARTING TO SNOW

YOU'VE SEEN ME OFF, SO GO HOME ALREADY

IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL

SEEING YOU OFF

I don't know
what it's like to
be burnt by love.



But,

There is someone
to whom I want
to be special.

The happy things, the lonely things... but I can't say that you tell me everything.

I'm happy that I was the first one you thought of.

So when you decided that you wanted to tell someone about this...

Whether they be male or female.

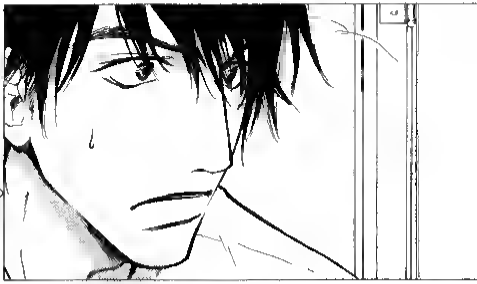
It would have really hurt

If you'd gone to anyone else first

Now, when was it... that I started thinking like this...
flutter
It would be nice if you thought of me as someone special, in the same way that I think of you... but you don't.

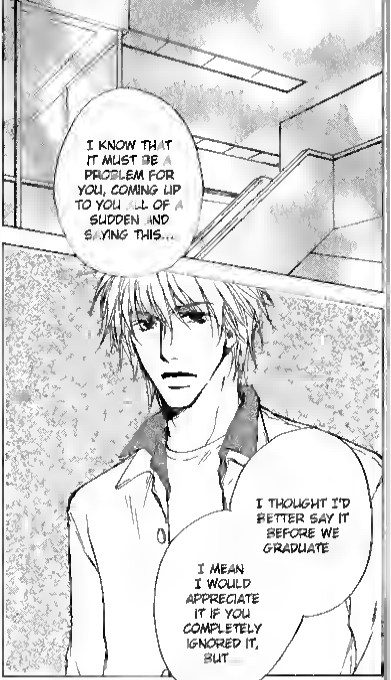
OTOUMI!
WHEN I GET MY PHONE LINE HOOKED UP,
I'LL COME TELL YOU MY NUMBER
bump bump

I've... completely forgotten by now



-•END•-

第3話



Yeah.

I've known that he was a pretty popular guy smce a while ago.

...
SOMEONE TOLD YOU HOW THEY FELT ABOUT YOU?
A GUY?
WELL, IT WAS THE SUBMISSION DAY FOR OUR FINAL PROJECT.
IT WAS MORE THAN TWO MONTHS AGO.
BUT THEN YESTERDAY
THIS IS OUR NEW MEMBER, UCHIYAMA
HE'S GOING TO BE SHADOWING ME FOR A LITTLE WHILE
EVERYONE, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HIM
OH, RIGHT THE TRUTH IS, UCHIYAMA'S FROM ARAMI, TOO
REALLY? IF HE'S IN DESIGN, THEN HE'S JUST LIKE OTOUM!
MAYBE YOU TWO HAVE SEEN EACH OTHER BEFORE?

I REALIZED IN THE BACK OF MY MIND THAT
LIKE THAT...
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT WE'D MEET AGAIN IN SUCH A WAY.
YOU MEAN, YOU KNEW HE WAS
IT WAS SOMETHING IN HIS MANNER, MAYBE, BUT SOMEHOW, YEAH...
WELL, WE WERE IN THE SAME DEPARTMENT FOR FOUR YEARS.
WHEN HE TOLD YOU HOW HE FELT...
HOW DID YOU ANSWER?
NOTHING REALLY
I JUST SAID "I'M SORRY, I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU" LIKE NORMAL
EH? JUST LIKE THAT?
WHAT WERE YOU EXPECTING?
EH...? OH, NOTHING...

GEEZ, HE'S EVEN GETTING ASKED OUT BY GUYS

BUT OTOUMI'S PRETTY POPULAR

It wasn't that I was expecting anything...

I just thought that having a guy tell you that he loves you would get more of a reaction...

YAJIMA.

HEY YAJIMA!

I SAID, YAJIMA!

ARE YOU FREE AFTER WORK TODAY?

YEAH.

UM, YAJIMA...

WHAT ARE YOU STARING INTO SPACE FOR?

UH... SORRY. WHAT'S UP?

EH?

YEAH?

COULD YOU STAY WITH ME IN THE SHOP FOR A LITTLE WHILE AFTER WORK TODAY?
I'M SORRY!
GREAT!
?
SURE, BUT WHY?
Aya! We're here!
Yajima! Long time no see!
DRUNK
Anyway, you're got a friend who's really, really hot, don't you? Why haven't you introduced us?! Geez!
Yaaaa! In clothes like that, it doesn't look like Yajima at all!

...MIURA-SAN, WHAT'S...
YESTERDAY THEY CALLED ME UP AND INVITED ME TO GO OUT DRINKING WITH THEM TODAY, BUT I COULDN'T
AND WE SORT OF STARTED TALKING ABOUT YOU, YAJIMA...
See today I have to close the shop.
I think that after alcohol sweet things are best!
Aya's father isn't here today.
Darn
The owner had an errand to run, so he left the shop before closing time
SO WHO'S MY 'SEXY FRIEND?'
THE GUY WHO WAS WITH YOU THAT TIME WHEN YOU WERE GOING BACK TO YOUR HOMETOWN
WELL HE SEEMED TO BE JUST YOUKO'S TYPE, SO...
...YOU MEAN OTOUMI
I knew it.
HEY, COME ON AND ORDER, ALREADY
IT'S ALREADY PAST CLOSING TIME
AH WHAT BAD ATTITUDE
We're your customers you know?
SURE!
I WANT ONE GOOD MAN, PLEASE!
COME ON, NOW

So now you can introduce your sexy friend to us!
YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO BE WORKING IN AYA'S SHOP 'TILL THE END OF THE MONTH RIGHT?
WE CAME BECAUSE WE HEARD
I'M ONLY SAYING THIS ONCE, BUT HE'S GOT A LOT OF THINGS GOING ON
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GET A HOLD OF HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT
IF WE'D GONE TO SOME OTHER CAFE, IT FEELS LIKE WE'D NEVER GET TO SEE YOUR FACE ANYMORE
Yay
YAJIMA— I'M REALLY SORRY
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
MIURA, I'M BORROWING THE PHONE
AH— YEAH

Well, it's my fault for not being able to refuse...

BEEP

HELLO?

AH

AH... OTOUMI? IT'S YAJIMA.

YUKAKI?

WHAT'S UP?

I called to you just yesterday, didn't I?

Otoumi really doesn't like this kind of thing...

ring

ring

C'MON, JUST LET THE ANSWERING MACHINE PICK UP

WELL, SURE...

BUT IT'D BE GOOD IF HE WEREN'T HOME...

beep

UH... IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO DO, OR IF YOU'RE BUSY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

BUT IN THE **ONE-IN-A-MILLION** CHANCE THAT YOU'VE GOT SOME FREE TIME, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D COME TO THE CAFE.

THE CAFE?

BUT IF YOU **JUST CAN'T** THAT'S FINE

OR WE CAN HAVE SOMETHING ALCOHOLIC THAT'S FINE TOO

SHUT UP YOU GUYS!

Want you come and have some tea with us?

Good evening! We're Yajimas friends from the university!

Kya

GIRLS, YOU'RE COMING ON WAY TOO STRONG
WHAAAT? IT WAS YOU WHO FIRST TOLD US ABOUT YAJIMA'S FRIEND, WASN'T IT, AYA?
Well that's true but...
IT'LL TAKE ME ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES IS THAT OKAY?
EH? YEAH...
BUT IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO, DON'T
I'M ON MY WAY
What is it? Did he say he would come?
What happened Yama?
Huh?
creak

I'M SO SORRY 'BOUT THIS, OTOUMI
They're just so selfish
YOU'LL AT LEAST TREAT ME TO A CUP OF COFFEE, RIGHT?
MY TREAT, MY TREAT
Of course
HEY THERE
Wow...
He is definitely
I knew it he's so my type
Ah!
So nice to meet you!
We're so happy you really came!
Please, sit down, sit down!
GOSH I REALLY DIDN'T THINK HE WAS GOING TO COME
surprise
HE MUST BE MORE SOCIABLE THAN HE LOOKS

NORMALLY, HE ISN'T HAPPY ABOUT BEING DRAGGED ALONG TO THESE THINGS...

NO... HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE RIGHT NOW, ANYWAY

SEEMS LIKE HE DID HAVE GIRLFRIENDS IN COLLEGE, THOUGH

REALLY?

IT BECAUSE HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND?

He's got to have some reason or another, though...

Really

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR ME TO CLEAN UP THE SECOND FLOOR.

SO AFTER I'M DONE WITH THAT, I'M CLOSING THE FIRST FLOOR, TOO.

startled

WHAAAT?

NO 'WHATS.'

TO SOME EXTENT I'M THE ONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING, THOUGH
'TO SOME EXTENT?'
clatter
MIURA, I'LL CLEAN UP THE SECOND FLOOR
IT'S FINE. YOU KEEP EVERYONE COMPANY, YAJIMA
HEY... IS SOMETHING GOING ON WITH THOSE TWO?
YOU DON'T THINK THAT THEY MIGHT REALLY BE GOING OUT?
WHO KNOWS? AYA DENIES IT, THOUGH
BUT THAT GIRL DEFINITELY HAS A CRUSH ON YAJIMA, THOUGH, DOESN'T SHE
OH, YOU WERE THINKING THAT, TOO?
If not, she wouldn't have invited him to come work at her house, right?
SHE MIGHT BE SAYING THEY'RE NOT GOING OUT TO SPARE KANA'S FEELINGS
BUT THEY'VE ALREADY BROKEN UP, SO SHE DOESN'T NEED TO BE SO CAREFUL...
THAT'S POSSIBLE

I GUESS YOU ARE MAD, HUH

NOT REALLY
IT WAS MORE INTERESTING THAN I THOUGHT IT'D BE.

THANKS FOR COMING OUT HERE FOR ME.
I DON'T MIND.
YOU WERE GETTING PUSHED AROUND BY A BUNCH OF DRUNK GIRLS, AND DIDN'T HAVE ANY REASON TO REFUSE.
ACK...

AH.
IF ANY OF THE GIRLS CAUGHT YOUR EYE
I CAN AT LEAST HOOK YOU GUYS UP, RIGHT?
BUT I GUESS NONE OF THOSE THREE
WHAT ABOUT THAT MIURA GIRL? SHE AVAILABLE?
EH?
YOU MEAN
MIURA?
YOU SERIOUS!?
JUST KIDDING.
WELL, MY STATION'S THIS WAY.
AH... YEAH.

I really didn't think he'd just go out and say a name like that

HE REALLY SURPRISED ME

that he was indifferent to love affairs.

A girlfriend?

I had one, but we broke up a month ago.

Even when he was dating that girl in college, I almost never heard her name come out of his mouth. He's just that kind of guy.

I always got the impression

But now I wonder...

If he didn't really give a damn about a girl..

would Otouma say her name?

ALL RIGHT I'M GOING TO GIVE THIS TO YOU

PLEASE PASS IT ALONG TO TACHIBANA-SAN

橘 様

I UNDERSTAND

AFTERWARDS I'LL HAVE TACHIBANA GIVE YOU A CALL

TO CONFIRM THAT HE RECEIVED IT

ARE YOU DOING ANYTHING AFTER WORK TODAY?

EH?

UCHIYAMA...

Johnson's
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU
...WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
silence
UM.
YOU SAID THAT YOU HAD SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO ASK ?
UCHIYAMA
WHAT MAKES YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH A GUY?
EH?
AH. YES.

Um, first of all, this is a family restaurant.
Could you speak a little more quietly?
The company's close by, too...
OH SORRY.
Thump
Thump
YOU'RE ASKING ME 'WHAT...'
WELL, I'VE BEEN GAY SINCE BEFORE... SO FOR ME, IT STARTS WHEN I LIKE THE LOOK OF HIS FACE
IN MY CASE, TOO?
UH GUESS SO.
A ha ha.
SO I GUESS YOU THINK ABOUT WANTING TO BE INSIDE HIM, THAT KIND OF THING?
EH!?
Um, well actually, if I had to pick, I'm more... uh...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT IN THE WORLD...
IS SOMEONE... ON YOUR MIND, MAYBE?

SIGH.
IF I DON'T REALLY GET DOWN TO BUSINESS AND FIND ANOTHER CAFE TO WORK IN
Ding Dong
I REALLY DON'T KNOW
OTOUMI?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE SO LATE?
CLICK

SORRY.
I'M SLEEPING OVER TONIGHT
ARE YOU DRUNK?
Wow! he smells like alcohol...
YUKARI
HUH!?
HAVE YOU EVER KISSED A MAN?
Flop
HUH?
What!?
OTOUMU!?

I UNDERSTAND
DID YOU USE YOUR TONGUE?
OH WELL, IN THAT CASE...
LIKE DURING COMPANY PARTY GAMES OR SOMETHING...
I DIDN'T GO THAT FAR
WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT,
NO MATTER WHAT YOU THINK OF THE PERSON, IT DOESN'T CHANGE
MEN, WOMEN... IT'S ALL THE SAME
HEY, WAIT... IS HE STILL AFTER YOU?
YEAH.
WAS IT THAT GUY WHO ASKED YOU OUT BEFORE?
...WHO DID YOU DO IT WITH...?

ARE YOU STUPID OR SOMETHING!?
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU JUST TRY OUT!
HE TOLD ME HE UNDERSTOOD
That's not the problem!
NO...
I WAS JUST WONDERING WHAT IT WAS LIKE SO I TRIED IT.
I KNOW...
I FEEL KIND OF BAD ABOUT UCHIYAMA, TOO
HE PROBABLY REGRETS IT, A LITTLE

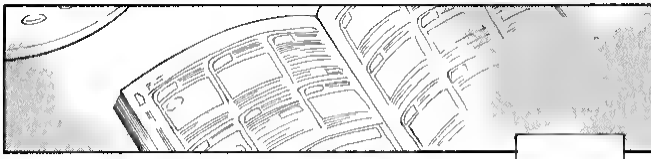
clatter
rustle rustle
HERE
toss
Stand
rustle
I'M GOING TO GET INTO THE BATH NOW
IT'S FINE IF YOU TURN OFF ALL THE LIGHTS
'KAY.
YOU'RE STAYING OVER, RIGHT?
CHANGE INTO THAT AND GO TO SLEEP ALREADY

Otoumi's changes are wavering.

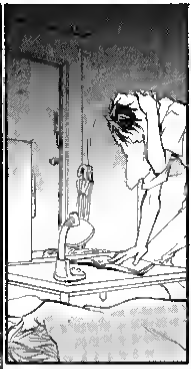
Zaaa...

Otoumi's words keep coming back to me.

What is it like, anyway?



But there's a part of me that wants to know..

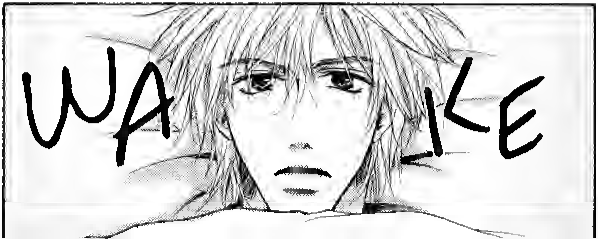


Why did Otoumi come here tonight?

··END··

4

I understand, to some extent, that this is an act that should have meaning to it.



第4話

MM
DID YOU GO TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE?
YEAH
I WENT AND BOUGHT BREAKFAST, SINCE I ONLY HAD ONE PIECE OF WHITE BREAD LEFT
CLICK
WHAT'S THIS?
GUESS YOU MANAGED TO WAKE UP ON YOUR OWN HUH, OTOUM!
YOU OKAY WITH COFFEE?
YEAH
IT'S FINE I DON'T NEED ANYTHING
I DON'T ALWAYS EAT BREAKFAST ANYWAY...
I KNOW THAT,
BUT SINCE YOU SLEPT OVER AT MY PLACE, YOU'RE GOING TO EAT AT LEAST A LITTLE BREAKFAST
SO IT'S AN OBLIGATION NOW?

Yesterday night, before I pushed myself into Yukari's room,

I met up with an old classmate of mine from college.

click

His name is Uchiyama,

and a while ago, he told me that he had feelings for me.

Last night, we kissed.

It just sort of happened

Well, to put it properly he agreed to be my partner for an experiment

A kiss which holds no other meaning.

Translator's note: strictly speaking, it's a job-search magazine, but since I've never seen such a thing, I'm assuming they don't exist in the USA.
YEAH.
YOU SAW MY MAGAZINE OF CLASSIFIED ADS?*
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT YOU'VE REALLY STARTED TO ACTIVELY WORK AT FINDING YOUR NEXT JOB.
WHAT'S UP?
YOU NOT AWAKE YET?
EH? NO...

YOU'D WORK SOMEPLACE WITHOUT NEGOTIATING YOUR HOURS?
IN ANY CASE, I'M THINKING OF GOING TO THE PLACES NEARBY THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT, AND DOING A PRELIMINARY INSPECTION
IF THEY'LL HIRE ME YEAH
JUST CHECKING TO SEE HOW THEY REALLY ARE
AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, THEY'RE USUALLY NOT LOOKING FOR NEW PEOPLE
DIDN'T KNOW THAT
YOU SAID THAT YOU'VE ALREADY QUIT YOUR JOB AT THE PACHINKO PARLOUR?
SO THERE'S BEEN NO TALK OF MAYBE GETTING YOU ANOTHER MONTH'S EXTENSION?
I DECIDED TO KEEP WORKING AT THE COFFEE SHOP.
NOPE. THEY SAID THAT IF EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY WITH HER RECOVERY AFTER THE OPERATION,
THE OWNER'S WIFE SHOULD BE COMING BACK TO THE CAFE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
BUT I DID THAT BEFORE AND ENDED UP PLAYING PACHINKO, SO IT DIDN'T SEEM LIKE A GOOD IDEA.
IF I'D ASKED THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE AGREED TO CHANGE MY SHIFT,

OH, CRAP!
TOO MUCH RELAXING...
LATER, OTOUMI.
YEAH
THANKS FOR LETTING ME SLEEP OVER
Either that
Or he's just thinking "Oh, whatever."
HE DIDN'T ASK ME ANYTHING
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT
WELL IT'S NOT LIKE HE'D WANT TO DIVE INTO ALL THE IMPLICATIONS OF ME KISSING ANOTHER GUY, WOULD HE?

Caffee
If that were the case...
I think it'd break me, a little.
EH?
ANOTHER EXTENSION?
After Closing...
NO
OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION, YAJIMA-KUN...
AND I REALIZE THAT WHAT I'M ASKING OF YOU IS COMPLETELY UNREASONABLE...
W-WAIT A MOMENT, SIR...
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOUR WIFE WOULD BE COMING BACK, SO YOU'D BE FULLY STAFFED?
...BUT PLEASE, JUST UNTIL WE FIND SOMEONE ELSE...
WE'LL WORK AS HARD AS WE CAN TO DO SO AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!

WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS...
BETWEEN MY WIFE AND HER TWO SISTERS THEY'RE TAKING TURNS TAKING CARE OF HER
IT'S NOT THE KIND OF SITUATION WHERE SHE HAS TO RUN BACK HOME IMMEDIATELY.
NOW IT'S MY MOTHER-IN-LAW WHO'S BEEN HOSPITALIZED
BUT EITHER WAY, JUST LIKE BEFORE, SHE PROBARLY CAN'T PUT IN TIME IN THE CAFE.
I KNOW YOU'VE ALREADY DONE US THE FAVOR OF STAYING AN EXTRA MONTH...
AND I REALIZE THAT IT'S A REAL IMPOSITION ON YOU, BUT...
IS THERE ANY WAY THAT YOU COULD STAY WITH US JUST A LITTLE LONGER?

RRR...
RRRRR
RRRRR
CLICK
HELLO...
AH...
IT'S YAJIMA
I DIDN'T WAKE YOU UP, BY ANY CHANCE, DID I?
NOT REALLY... I WAS JUST LYING AROUND
WHAT'S WRONG? THAT'S A PUBLIC PHONE YOU'RE CALLING FROM, ISN'T IT?
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I CAME OVER TO YOUR PLACE...?

YOU CAN KEEP ME COMPANY

WHILE I GET DRUNK...

A WORK EXTENSION AT THE COFFEE SHOP
WHAT'S MORE, IT'S FOR ANOTHER THREE MONTHS
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I WAS SO INTO IT THAT I'VE BEEN MONITORING INFORMATION MAGAZINES,
AND NOW I'LL HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN.
IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH A HOUSEHOLD SITUATION
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE TO GET MOVING RIGHT THIS VERY MINUTE, BUT
THIS'LL STOP MY MOMENTUM COLD.

You're really responsible about that kind of thing, aren't you?
Sulp
I TOLD THEM IT'D BE A PROBLEM FOR ME IF THEY FOUND SOMEONE AND THEN JUST SUDDENLY LET ME GO. BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO BE DEADWEIGHT AND DRAG ON ANOTHER MONTH'S EXTENSION, EITHER.
I HAD A FEW CONDITIONS
BUT AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT A JOB SET UP FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, RIGHT?
THEY REALLY TAUGHT ME A LOT IN THAT COFFEE SHOP
PLUS THE OWNER'S A GOOD MAN
IN SOME WAYS, I'M JUST HAPPY THAT THEY'RE DEPENDING ON ME

.....
PROBABLY.
YOU'RE IMPATIENT?
SEEMS LIKE
I TALKED BIG WHEN I QUIT COLLEGE
IF I MOVED FORWARD, IT WOULD KIND OF BE LIKE AN ANSWER
AND I GUESS I WANT THAT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

HEY YUKARI!
I TOLD YOU, DON'T SLEEP LIKE THAT—
UGH...
was heavy.
...!
DRAG
FLOP

YUKARI!

MMM.

WHAT TIME DOES YOUR WORK START?

BEFORE YOU KEEL OVER, JUST TELL ME WHAT TIME I SHOULD WAKE YOU UP.

AH

TOMORROW, THE CAFE ITSELF IS CLOSED

Shove

OKAY, SO I CAN JUST LEAVE YOU UNTIL YOU WAKE UP ON YOUR OWN

HEY OTOUM!

ABOUT YESTERDAY WERE YOU DRUNK?

HUH?

YOU'D BEEN DRINKING, RIGHT?

WHEN YOU CAME TO MY PLACE.

YOU WERE REALLY DONE IN?

!

I GUESS SO

I GET IT.

THAT'S WHY YOU CAME

TO MY HOUSE, YESTERDAY.

I GET IT
ZZZ
SMACK

But...

I understand that it's an act that should have some meaning to it

I managed to give it meaning...
NNNH.
But if somehow, here,
Flop
What then...?
gulp
END

How long did it take, I wonder, for me to fall asleep?
第5話

I think it was a long time.
Now and again, I'd hear the sound of his body moving
And curl up to keep from reacting to it.
When this nervousness began to tire me out,

As if lured into it
I tumbled into sleep.
This time,
wrapped in the rhythmic sound of his sleeping breath..
Splash

It was only two nights...

HACK

cough cough

splash

GAH!!

cough

cough

?

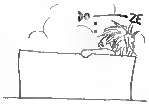
cough

!?

Suddenly got called in to work overtime in the middle of his day off (And on top of that, had to stay overnight.) On Monday made preparations. Today didn't get out until after dusk.

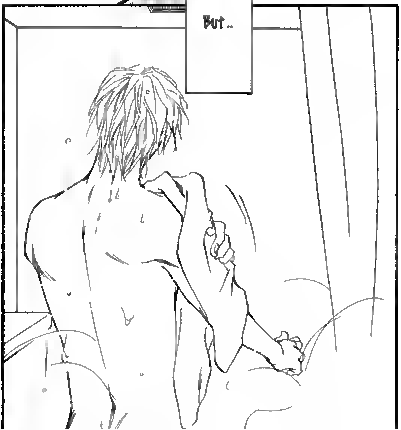
On the way home, got rained upon all of a sudden.

Was planning to just go straight to sleep but changed plans and got into the tub. (Dozed off like that.)



That night continued into the second evening.

But...



Just the realization was enough.

I practically haven't contacted him
Since that day it's been more than a month since I've seen Yukari.
And I haven't heard his voice, either.
rub rub
If I look at this objectively,
JINRO
It's not any different from the way things were before.

WHY NOW OF ALL TIMES?
WHAT'S ONE MONTH? THERE WAS A TIME WE DIDN'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR THREE MONTHS
AND I COULD CALL HIM EVEN IF I DON'T REALLY HAVE A REASON TO...
!!!!!
Nothing's changed except me.
I've just...
become strange.

RRRR
RRRRR
shock
RRRRR
HELLO?
HELLO? OTOUMI?
IT'S YAJIMA
YOUR VOICE SOUNDS ALL GROGGY
DID I CALL WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP, AGAIN?
AH...
HEY...

KIND OF
FOR SOME REASON, YOUR VOICE SOUNDS REALLY TIRED
HAVE YOU BEEN BUSY?
YOUR VERSION OF 'KIND OF' CAN SOMETIMES BE PRETTY UNRELIABLE
I CAN HANG UP IF YOU'RE SLEEPY
I'M FINE
NO, I WAS AWAKE
It's not like I can tell him I was on my way to having a wet dream...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
THINGS HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED, FOR ME
I EVEN STOOD IN FOR ANOTHER PART-TIME JOB RECENTLY
WOW, YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER. DO YOU?
I TOLD YOU THAT I'VE GOT THE SECOND AND FOURTH SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH OFF, RIGHT?
WELL, YEAH WHAT YOU DON'T REMEMBER?
AH... THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'VE GOT TODAY OFF, I GUESS?
OTHER THAN THAT, I'VE BEEN GOING TO THE COFFEE SHOP, LIKE ALWAYS.

YUKARI
SORRY
I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER
WHAT?
CLICK
HUH!?
beep
beep
beep

DAMN IT...
MMMH...
MM...
AH...

DAMN IT...!
HELLO?
OTOUMI?
WHAT WAS THAT, EARLIER...
RRR...
RRRRR
YUKARI
CAN YOU BE AT THE STATION IN THIRTY MINUTES?
HUH...? THE STATION...?
You mean the station closest to my place?
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON ALL OF A SUDDEN...
I'LL BE THERE TO RETURN THE SAKE YOU LEFT HERE LAST TIME.
COME TO THE TICKET TURNSTILES.
CLICK
.....
beep~
beep~
beep

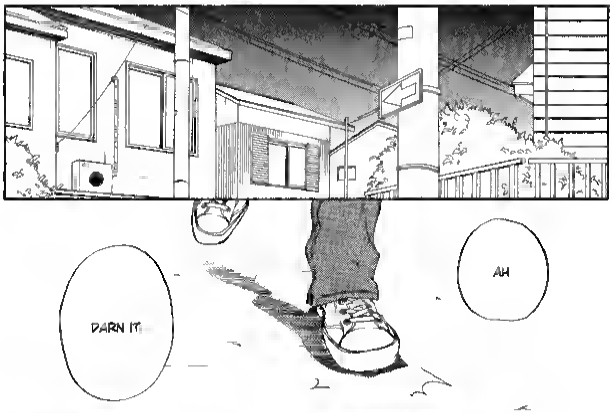
Geez!
What's going on!? He's been acting weird since I called!
clack
HEY YOU
DID YOU EAT SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T AGREE WITH YOU OR SOMETHING?
NO— SORRY
HERE

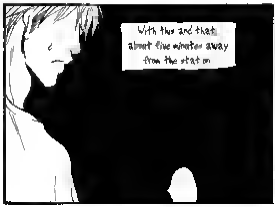
I DON'T REALLY DRINK STRONG LIQUORS
Plus, it's been at your place for more than a month, so why now?
YOU'D PUT US THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON
YOU DRANK THIS THE LAST TIME I WAS THERE
WELL, I DON'T REMEMBER IT CLEARLY
EH?

WHAT'S THIS?
OTOUMI?
And he's chatting away with someone.
UCHIYAMA.
UM... ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME, TOO, OTOUMI?
WELL THIS IS A SURPRISE THIS IS THE CLOSEST STATION TO MY PLACE
I'M JUST ON MY WAY HOME FROM SOME SHOPPING.

HUH?
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF GETTING LOST.
WELCOME, WELCOME!
TWO GUESTS? PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE!
EH!?
IF YOU'D LIKE, WE CAN GET SOME TEA OVER THERE...
UM. WELL...
Alcohol Please.
WHEN YOU'VE DECIDED ON YOUR FOOD ORDER, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL ME, PLEASE!
SORRY FOR THE WAIT! ONE MEDIUM DRAFT BEER AND A CASSIS ORANGE

I KNOW THAT THIS IS A STRANGE THING TO ASK...
UM, EXCUSE ME...
Sulp
Sulp
Sulp
Sulp
Sulp
WAS IT THE GUY YOU WERE TALKING TO IN FRONT OF THE STATION?
THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE SOMEONE ON YOUR MIND...
BUT WHEN YOU SAID BEFORE,
...YEAH


DARN IT
AH


With this and that, almost five weeks away from the start on

I FORGOT TO GIVE OTOUMI THE MESSAGE FROM RYOUIKO
Wasn't that the reason why I called him in the first place?

OH WELL
WHEN I GET HOME, I'LL CALL HIM AGAIN

IF I'VE GOT TO BE HONEST, I DON'T CONSIDER THE PRESENT SITUATION 'GOOD.'
AFTER ALL, FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, YOU DON'T WANT TO DESTROY THE CONNECTION THAT YOU'VE HAD UP TO THIS POINT...
BUT THEN AGAIN, YOU'RE AWARE OF THAT.
YOU'VE REALIZED THAT YOU'VE CHANGED.
BUT YOU EXPECT THE STATUS QUO TO REMAIN? IN MY OPINION, THAT'S PARTICULARLY UNHEALTHY.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!
LIM OTOUMI?
SORRY...
I STAYED OVER... AT THE COMPANY LAST NIGHT... SO I HAVEN'T

Why in the world would you invite someone out to drink at a time like that!?
OTOUMI!
WE'VE JUST TURNED LEFT OFF OF THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE STATION WHAT'S NEXT?
HMM?
WHAT'S NEXT? IN WHICH DIRECTION DO WE GO FROM HERE?
AHHH
GO STRAIGHT AHEAD IT'S JUST ON THE THIRD BLOCK ON THE RIGHT
YOU KNOW IT'S ONLY BEEN THREE, FOUR MONTHS SINCE YOU TURNED ME DOWN FLAT?
DO YOU EVEN REMEMBER THAT?
I DIDN'T THINK THAT YOU REQUIRED SO MUCH MAINTENANCE, OTOUMI
YOU DON'T THINK TWICE, AND YOU'RE THICK-SKINNED
I'M SORRY
YEAH

HERE ON THE SECOND FLOOR, RIGHT?
MMHM
HERE, TAKE OUT YOUR KEY!
I'LL OPEN THE DOOR
RRR
rumble
click
click
AH
THE PHONE'S RINGING
RRRRR
RRRRR
UM...
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO HAVE THE ANSWERING MACHINE ON WOULD YOU?
RRRRR
RRRR
HELLO?
AAAH! OKAY ALREADY!
OTOUMI!
FLOP
OPEN

YOU'RE FINALLY HOME. HUH.
YOU TOLD ME YOURSELF THAT YESTERDAY. YOU'D STAYED OVER AT YOUR COMPANY ALL NIGHT. SO WHAT'RE YOU DOING WANDERING AROUND, YOU IDIOT?
AND OF COURSE YOU FORGOT TO TURN ON YOUR ANSWERING MACHINE AGAIN.
YOU'RE REALLY ACTING WEIRD TODAY!
OTOUMI ACTUALLY ASLEEP, RIGHT NOW.
UH. UM.
EXCUSE ME.
EH...?
HE WAS ALREADY LACKING SLEEP... SO WHEN HE TOOK A LITTLE BEER, HE WENT DOWN LIKE A ROCK.
BY NOW, HE'S COMPLETELY OUT OF IT.
I'M NOT SURE YOU COULD HAVE A DECENT CONVERSATION WITH HIM.
UH. YES...
UM, TO WHOM AM I SPEAKING...?
UCHI-YAMA. AH.
I'M A FRIEND OF OTOUMI'S.

AH...
I... SEE.
LATER, THEN...
BEEP
OH.
THAT WAS HIM...
THE MAN THAT OTOUMI MET AT THE STATION...?
.....

He really is the kind of guy who does things his own way, but...

...to switch this quickly to doing things that make no sense...

I was just wondering what it was like so I tried it.
.....
No way
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD LEAVE A MESSAGE JUST IN CASE.
I SHOULD PROBABLY TELL HIM THAT HE HAD A PHONE CALL, TOO.
WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW...?

IF I WERE TO SLEEP OVER,
AND TALK TO OTOUMI AFTER HE WAKES UP...
NO, THAT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA
Rationally speaking.
gulp
RRR...
RRRR
RRRR
HELLO?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SORRY, THIS IS YAJIMA, I'M THE ONE WHO CALLED EARLIER
IS THIS THE SAME GUY AS BEFORE?
AH... YES.
I'M HEADING OVER THERE RIGHT NOW
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU MIND WAITING UNTIL I GET THERE?

I'LL BE THERE IN UNDER THIRTY MINUTES

ALL RIGHT...

...YEAH, BUT I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT HIM.

HUH?

UM... HE'S JUST SLEEPING, AND IT DOESN'T SEEM AS IF HE'S GOING TO THROW UP.

No need to go through all that trouble.

SOMEHOW,

THIS SEEMS RATHER COMPLICATED

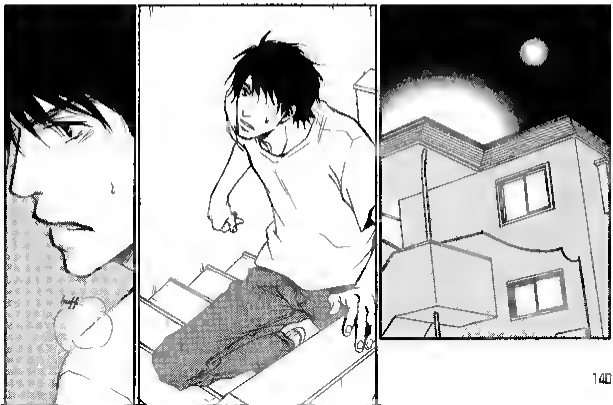
.....?

.....

click

A NORMAL FRIEND WOULDN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF REACTION NORMALLY,

WOULD HE?



DING DONG
I'M YAJIMA
THE ONE WHO CALLED EARLIER.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT
NO, THAT'S FINE, BUT
DID YOU RUN ALL THE WAY HERE?
YEAH FROM THE STATION
THERE REALLY WASN'T ANY NEED TO RUSH LIKE THAT
AS I SAID HE'S JUST SLEEPING, RIGHT?
ZZZ.
SEE?

UCHIYAMA.
WELL, I HAVE WORK TOMORROW.
SO I'LL JUST LEAVE THE REST TO YOU AND GO HOME NOW.
UM...
YEAH. THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I WOULDN'T KNOW IN COLLEGE, WE DIDN'T GO OUT DRINKING TOGETHER VERY MUCH
IT WAS JUST BY CHANCE THAT OUR COMPANIES ARE CLOSE TOGETHER SO WE'VE STARTED TALKING A LOT LATELY...
UM... YOU'RE FROM ASANO'S DESIGN SCHOOL RIGHT. JUST LIKE OTOUMI?
IN COLLEGE, DID OTOUMI OFTEN GET WASTED LIKE THIS?
THAT'S RIGHT WHY?
I SEE.

"You know that guy in my department who asked me out?"

"Just by pure luck, they hired him in my building, so we saw each other again."

That's just how it went.

I KNEW IT — THAT WAS HIM, WASN'T IT

And on top of that, Otouni's even shared a kiss with him.

GEEZ! What were you thinking, you idiot!?

As I was running,

As my breath was rasping in my chest,

I thought, "Why am I in such a hurry?"

Was I in a rush?
Was I impatient?
I really have no idea, but even so...
At the time... the idea of slowing down never even crossed my mind.
-END-

FUJIYAMA HYOUTA

BIRZ COMICS RUTILE COLLECTION

必さよし翠鳥	「純粋暴走ハニー」
石田育島	「ガキの言い分」「LOST」「麻薬の誘惑」
一之瀬綾子	「ゴーゴー僕たち」①
犬養きり	「最高の恋人」
緒川らいち	「絶対性恋愛論」
梶原にき	「月と水の夜」①② 「マドンナの片想い」「春の雪」
亀井高秀	「HOME,SWEET HOME」 HOME SWEET HOME「LA VIE EN ROSE」 HOME SWEET HOME「WONDERFUL WORLD」 HOME,SWEET HOME「LA DOLCE VITA」 HOME SWEET HOME「SUMMER TIME」 「離れる他人」「不滅の花」「天使の化石」「誓約の岸」 「月の砂漠」
島須磨子	「いちごが好きでもあかならどまれ。」 「SWAYIN' IN THE AIR」
斎藤岬	「ウルトラ パニック」①～③
JUN	「手伝飯」① 「5時から9時まで」
須賀邦彦	「Heart Beat Heat」
高久尚子	「月光のらんかんにくちなしの白い」
槙楊ゆう	「I LOVE BROTHERS!」
高永ひなこ	「CROQUIS クロッキー」
竹美武らら	「いとし 愛しと言うところ」「On Your Mark」
田中鈴木	「Like a dog as a dog」「転校生 神誓約」①②
つづき馨	「水井春一のTEENAGE LUST」「今日もプレイボール」
テクノサマタ	「MAGIC CHANNEL」「お超天国」「星の見 銀の夜」①②
七星秋生	「君は知らない」「百年の恋かもしれない」 「王子様のお気に召すまま」
南京ぐれ子	「DROPS」①～③
西鶴祥	「お菓子な恋愛講習法」
花田祐実	「世界でいちばん」「さよならは ちょだけ」「雪天使輪舞」
緋色れーいち	「ピンクナポレオンフィッシュ」①②
広橋晶水	「KEEP」
炊山りこ	「ニッポニア ニッポン」①～③ 「金 銀 心」「薫る風」
富士山ひょうた	「ジュア プリンス」「ア ア ア 神の星のはい」
星野リリィ	「スーパーダブル」①
南野ましろ	「青紺の王国」①② 「月と寄宿者主」①②
やしきゆかり	「恋の鍵を壊しましょう」「ロマンスとイノセンス」
山田ユギ	「冷蔵庫の中はからっぽ」①② 「青年14歳」 「どうして涙が出るのかな」
山本小鉄子	「海手伝飯 左手に愛 」「ブラザーズ」①②

COVER DESIGN NOMAE (MIZUGECO Design)

富士山ひょうた FUJIYAMA HYOUTA.

1月28日生まれ。水がめ。A。

ゲーム熱、激しく再燃中。

やりたいソフトがいっぱいで、収拾つかなくなってます。

BIRZ COMICS RUTILE COLLECTION

富士山ひょうた

FUJIYAMA YOUTA

RUTILE R COLLECTION

ディア・グリーン

瞳の追うのは①

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富士山ひょうた

発行 幻冬舎コミックス

9784344805361

1929979005900

ISBN4-344-80536-4

C9979 ¥590E

雑誌 54243-76

定価：本体590円+税

発行＝幻冬舎コミックス

発売＝幻冬舎

矢鳴縁と音海紘は高校時代からの友人。

進学のために揃って上京したこともあり、つきあいは5年以上になる。

「気楽な友人」という関係を心地よく思っていた二人だが、

少しずつお互いの存在がただの友人ではなくなるのを自覚し始め……!?

待望の「ディア・グリーン」シリーズ第2弾！

xx
happier.

RYOUJI...
LET'S NOT DO THIS ANYMORE.

At the very beginning,
I was the one who
reached out to Ryouji.

I don't know how many times I'd seen his face in school, but we'd never been introduced.

BEEP

BEEP

EH?

WHAT... WAIT...

AH!

WAIT A MINUTE!

Unbelieeeevably pathetic voice

I'M ALREADY AT THE PLACE WHERE WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET... THOUGH...

I

The truth is, Ryouji didn't know who I was.

HEH

!

IT'S JUST THAT...
I WAS THINKING, "THAT'S REALLY CUTE..."
AH.
I'M SORRY... I DIDN'T MEAN TO LAUGH...
HEY...
WAIT A MINUTE!
!

WHAT? ARE YOU
GAY?

YOUR DATE... IT GOT CANCELLED, DIDN'T IT?
...WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WANT TO GO DRINKING WITH ME THEN?

WELL... I MIGHT BE

GOODBYE.
Sorry! Just kidding, just kidding
Well, it's true... but anyhow...
THAT ISN'T WHY I'M REACHING OUT TO YOU.

I JUST GOT DUMPED MYSELF
SO I DECIDED TO GO DRINKING TO CHEER MYSELF UP. BUT THEN I STARTED THINKING, AND I GUESS IT'S REALLY NO FUN TO DO THAT ALL ALONE...
HEY
WE BOTH GOT TURNED DOWN, SO IF WE GO OUT TOGETHER...
smack
.....
STOP THINKING THAT YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME

IT WASN'T LIKE I WAS DUMPED OR ANYTHING.
THE GIRL I WAS ON THE PHONE WITH WAS MY OLDER SISTER!
I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT SERIOUSLY WHEN I SAID HE WAS "TURNED DOWN,"... THOUGH...

Hullo!
YUP. I DO
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WENT TO OUR SCHOOL.
YOU'RE...
HM? YOU'RE AN ACQUAINTANCE OF TSUTSUI'S?
DON'T COME WITH ME.
TAP
I'M GOING BACK AHEAD.
EH?
AHH YESTERDAY EVENING, KIND OF...
'SCUSE ME.
SHOO

YEAH AND THEN WHAT?

IT'LL JUST GIVE PEOPLE ALL KINDS OF IDEAS AND THEN BECOME SOME STUPID GOSSIP

IT'S REALLY DUMB

YOU COULD HAVE JUST TOLD THEM THE WHOLE STORY.

YOU KNOW, SAY, "HE'S THE HOMO WHO HIT ON ME YESTERDAY."

AH. I'M SORRY

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT TO SAY. I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR YESTERDAY.

EH?

WHAT WITH GETTING STOOD UP AND ALL...

YESTERDAY, I DON'T KNOW... I WAS JUST REALLY MAD FOR SOME REASON.

I'M SORRY. YOU JUST GOT CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

I'VE BEEN FEELING BAD ABOUT IT, SO...
BUT...
IT'S FINE. JUST LET ME APOLOGIZE.
I'M REALLY SORRY.
WHAT?
I MEAN, I WAS THE ONE WHO STARTED...
WELL, YEAH. THAT'S TRUE, TOO.
THEY CALL YOU TSUTSUI?
HM?
YOUR NAME...
HMM...
I'M TSUTSUI RYOUJI.
ME?

I'M NARUSAWA.

NARUSAWA WHAT?

ATSUKI

HMM.

My thoughts were probably showing on my face.

But whether Ryouji didn't notice or was pretending not to, he continued to just treat me like a normal friend

Want a smoke?

Just one.

Within a short period of time, the distance between us had narrowed at an incredible rate.

Atsuki! We're going out drinking today you came too!

I'll come I'll come.

YOU'RE GOING TO SETTLE THE SCORE?

OH, YOU MEAN BECAUSE OF THAT TIME YOU HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR OLDER SISTER?

THE BOYFRIEND?

LAST TIME'S INCIDENT HAPPENED BECAUSE HE HAD SOME URGENT THING SHE HAD TO GO TO

MY SISTER'S BOYFRIEND

I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S NO WAY IT'LL HAPPEN THIS TIME

SEEMS LIKE THE BOYFRIEND EVEN DID ME THE FAVOR OF LEAVING SOME TIME OPEN FOR ME

HEY, YOU MIGHT GET LEFT HANGING AGAIN, YOU KNOW

So his sister, who's six years older than him, is like a replacement for their mom, who died from some sickness

Kyouji's family is just the dad and the kids

HUH, I SEE

HE'S GOT DAD TOTALLY CONVINCED, BUT HE STILL WANTS ME ON HIS SIDE

WELL, THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT HE WANTS TO MEET ME

I GUESS THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE

?

.....

SO WHETHER OR NOT YOUR SISTER WILL FIND HAPPINESS

RESTS ON YOUR SHOULDERS, HUH?

ding dong
ding dong
ding dong
YES?
WHAT? RYOUJI, WHAT HAPPENED?
IS YOUR DINNER OVER ALREADY
SLAM

RYOU...
HE SEEMS LIKE A REALLY, REALLY GOOD GUY...
YOU KNOW, MY SISTER'S BOYFRIEND.
AND MY SISTER LOOKS SO DAMNED HAPPY, TOO.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE... AS LONG AS IT'S HIM, I CAN HAND HER OVER.
I...
I...
A sister complex.

If you want to put it into an expression, it can be said in just two words.
But...
Looking at Ryouji's condition, I understood that there was more to it than just that.
That was why, that time...
Ryouji reacted so badly to my words
IT'LL BE FINE... AS LONG AS YOUR SISTER'S HAPPY, RIGHT?

YEAH

That night

We kissed for the first time.

HEY...

WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I KISSED YOU?

IS THAT... NOT OKAY?

WHAT? YOU MEAN FOR COMFORT?

NO. JUST BECAUSE I WANT TO.

As far as I know,
I thought it was
the sweetest kiss.

It wasn't
intoxicating...
but it was
painfully sweet.

Ryouji was the
one suffering...
but I was the one
who shed the tears.

I guess you could call it an exchange of sympathy.
Both of our scents, and our warmth...
Even though I knew that beginning this way wasn't a good thing...
And from those, a sense of safety, and a similar sense of nervousness.

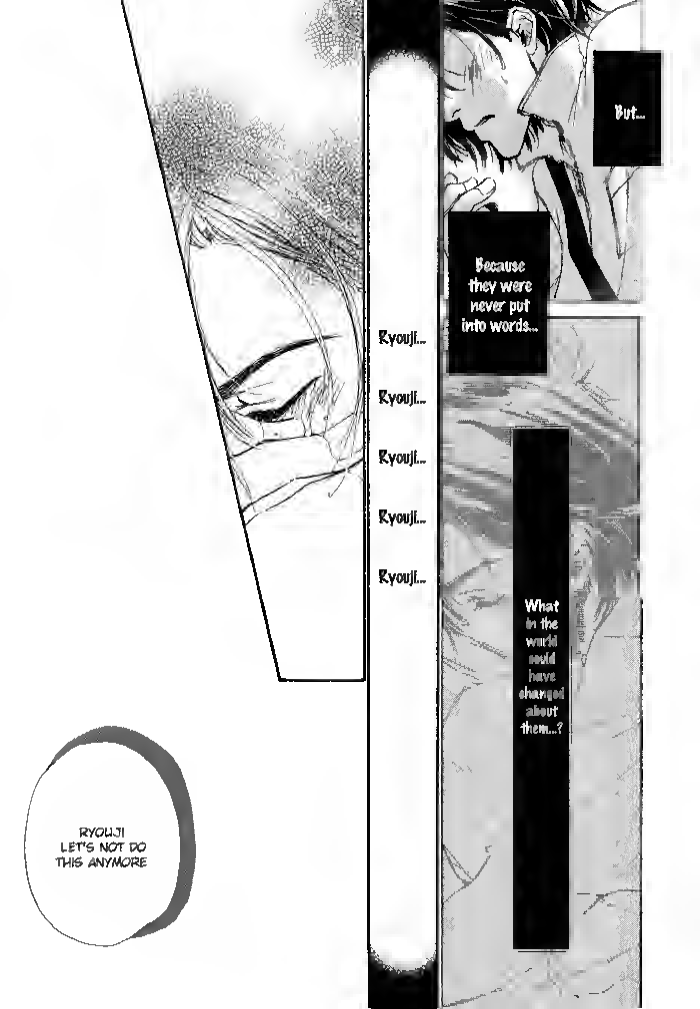
And I thought...

that I was happy.

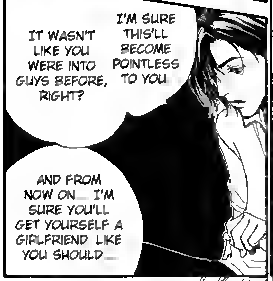
We made love...

I'M RYOUJI'S OLDER SISTER.
I REALLY DON'T KNOW HOW THIS HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND RYOUJI.
YOU'VE PROBABLY GUESSED WHY I'M HERE, SO I'LL JUST SAY IT.
HE'S A NORMAL BOY.
DON'T DRAG RYOUJI DOWN ANY STRANGE PATHS WITH YOU.
RYOUJI TOLD YOU?
JUST YOUR NAME.
HE SAID THAT YOU'RE A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL, AND THAT YOU SLEEP OVER A LOT.
BUT I KNEW.
THAT'S YOU...!
HE DOESN'T LOOK AT ME ANYMORE.
THAT BOY... HIS ATTITUDE'S CHANGED.

"Yeah."
?
"It'll be fine, as long as she can be happy."
WHAT?
I'M GOING NOW
IT'S NOTHING EXCUSE ME
WAI-
WAIT A MOMENT!
The love between us only makes our partner unhappy.
That's why, under no conditions
will our feelings ever be put into words.


But...
Because they were never put into words...
What in the world could have changed about them...?
Ryouji...
Ryouji...
Ryouji...
Ryouji...
Ryouji...
RYOUJI LET'S NOT DO THIS ANYMORE

WHY?


IT WASN'T LIKE YOU WERE INTO GUYS BEFORE, RIGHT?
I'M SURE THIS'LL BECOME POINTLESS TO YOU.
AND FROM NOW ON... I'M SURE YOU'LL GET YOURSELF A GIRLFRIEND LIKE YOU SHOULD...

LET'S NOT DO WHAT?
THIS KIND OF THING...
I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT... I REALLY THINK IT'LL BE BETTER IF WE STOP.

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? YOU SAYING THAT YOU DON'T LIKE DOING IT WITH ME?
THAT'S NOT IT...
YOU DON'T WANT YOUR SISTER TO WORRY, DO YOU?
... MY SISTER SAID SOMETHING TO YOU?
WE JUST MET BY ACCIDENT.
SHE SAID "THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF MY BROTHER."
SHE'S A GOOD SISTER, WATCHING OUT FOR HER LITTLE BROTHER LIKE THAT.

SO...
YOU WANT TO END IT, JUST LIKE THAT?
AND SOMEHOW, I STARTED TO FEEL LIKE I WAS DOING SOMETHING REALLY AWFUL
A VICIOUS CYCLE?
KIND OF... YEAH SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
...WHAT IS IT, ATSUKI?
I DON'T... HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE YOU UNHAPPY
THEN YOU'LL DEFINITELY BE ALL COMFORTED, WON'T YOU?
I'LL BECOME JUST SOME-THING YOU GOT TO PLAY WITH FOR AWHILE

I'M TALKING...
...ABOUT YOU
I MEAN YOU...
DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOUR SISTER CRY RIGHT ?
IF YOU'VE STARTED TO HATE ME
OR IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS KIND OF THING ANYMORE,
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT, AND WE'LL QUIT, RIGHT HERE

DO YOU HATE ME?
I LOVE YOU!
I LOVE YOU...
I LOVE...
HEY, ATSUKI!
THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEM...
MY SISTER WON'T LIKE IT, BUT...

Our love involves more than just the two of us.

And it's going to mix together happiness and unhappiness. Whether we say 'yes' or 'no,' it's going to swallow us up.

THE ONE WHO DECIDES WHETHER OR NOT SHE'S UNHAPPY...

IS ME, RIGHT?

But even so...

I couldn't help but make a wish.

ATSUKI...

"Somehow, may all of us find happiness in the end..."

I LOVE YOU

END

ディアーグリーン

瞳の追うのは

あとがき

縁は
わいと お調子者に
見られる しの設定なの
ですが あんまいえんな感じ
じゃない ですね(笑)
内面を描くほどに
そうでなくなる。

↓ ここから。

『瞳の追うのは』お手に取って頂き、ありがとうございます！ルチルさんからは2冊目になります。

1冊目は『ディア グリーン』とのコミックスで今回は、その2人の過去話（くつくまで～）とあります。もしも この本が初めて手に取って頂いたもので 興味が湧いたりしたらば、1冊目も読んでみて頂けると、すごく嬉しいです。

怒らしくスローリィに進んでいく2人

世界下様様。
常にしてもらった事。
いつも感謝しながら これからも
ご迷惑をかけていきます ~!!

青海は
私の私がいちばん好きな
親の顔いっぱい という設定なの
ですが いつもその設定に
自分で苦しめられています。
離婚への道はとおい…。

この話は、現在雑誌(ルチン)のうえで連載させて頂いて
おりますが、あまりにも、いやすぎて、見放されやしないか
ドキドキしつつ…でも楽しくやらせてもらっています。
後ろの読みきりは、ワルな~!! 以前に私をテーマに描かせ
て頂いたものですが 古いすぎて、もうどう手をつけようとおもい
わかりずそのまま の姿です。 お話としては ちょっと変わり…。
うおっ…?なんたか話を振る順番まちがえた気が
しますが、この本を楽しんで頂けていたら嬉しいな。
そして差印でまた お会いできたら嬉しいです。

2005年3月 [illegible]

□初出□

第1話 ―――――――――― ルチルvol 2(2003年8月)
第2話 ―――――――――― ルチルvol 3(2003年11月)
第3話 ―――――――――― ルチルvol 4(2004年2月)
第4話 ―――――――――― ルチルvol 5(2004年5月)
第5話 ―――――――――― ルチルvol 7(2004年11月)
××happier ―――――――――― ルチルSWEET vol 2(2001年6月)
あとがき ―――――――――― ●き下ろし

バーズコミックス　ルチルコレクション

ディア・グリーン瞳の追うのは①

2005年3月24日　第1刷発行

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発行元●株式会社　幻冬舎コミックス
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TEL 03-5411-6431（編集）
発売元●株式会社　幻冬舎
〒151-0051　東京都渋谷区千駄ヶ谷4-9-7
TEL 03-5411-6222（営業）
振替00120-8-767643
印刷―●本所●図●印刷株式会社

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ISBN4-344-80536-4 C9979
Printed in Japan

幻冬舎コミックスホームページ　http://www.gentosha-comics.net
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